

# LETTERS

Through the columns of Greenkeeper International I wish to raise a subject which I hope will merit a reply from some of our chemical manufacturers and suppliers. I refer to the apparent discrepancy in the way in which some chemicals are registered.

One such chemical regularly used is Vinclozoline, used as a treatment for Fusarium Patch. In a one litre bottle marked 'For Agricultural and Horticultural Use Only' - but with no grass or turf recommendations - it costs just £25. The same chemical from the same manufacturer - in a 'Golf Course Supplies' bottle costs £44.95. The same appears to be true of selective weedkillers most commonly used on golf courses.

Are the suppliers making a killing by manipulating registration and labelling of chemicals, or are there good reasons for these anomalies?

**SANDY BROWN**

Crieff Golf Club, Crieff, Scotland

It was with considerable interest that I read in your September issue of the appointment of Tracy Ruane to the position of head greenkeeper at the Leeds Municipal golf course of Oulton Hall, Rothwell.

In the second issue of Golf Greenkeeping that I published back in November 1982, Tracy was featured as a 19 year old apprentice greenkeeper working on the 36 hole Temple Newsam course under the then head greenkeeper, John Rushton. Even then her enthusiasm for the outdoor life was unbounded and it was reflected those ten years ago when she was utterly convinced her promotion path was headed towards becoming a head greenkeeper.

The fact that Tracy has achieved her ambition gives me a great deal of pleasure.

I wrote then - 'Tracy is a big girl, with big ideas, who is certain to go far in the world of greenkeeping. Her sparkling personality, enthusiasm and love of life, coupled with a determination to make a success in a career she feels absolutely right for, will carry her a long way.'

To hold down a greenkeeper's job in a traditional man's world will be no easy task. To excel in the skills of agronomy will be that much harder, but there is no doubt: Tracy Ruane, The Leeds



Outdoor Girl, can do it.

Anyone who sings whilst riding a motorbike to work, must make a success of their chosen career.'

**JOHN LELEAN**

Former editor, Golf Greenkeeping

To David Golding,  
Education Officer, BIGGA

I write to express my gratitude and thanks for the two day 'Public Speaking' course that you organised, which I attended recently. Having had limited experience in presenting one or more talks at various conferences it was enlightening to discover various methods to make the task easier, by correct structuring etc.

Frank Newberry should be congratulated on the way in which he instilled such confidence in the group that attended. I would wish for you to convey my appreciation. Hopefully, no one that he has enlightened will let him down when presenting talks at future conferences. If they do, I can assure you it is not a reflection of his teaching technique.

I would reiterate my comments that I felt the course should be extended to two and one half days, if only to give Frank time to sleep!

Despite this, an excellent educational event, and one that should be continued, and supported.

**DAVID JONES** Area Course Manager,  
Country Club Hotels

Another marvellous course at Aldwark Manor. Five of us on a

public speaking course given by Frank Newberry.

The three day course gave us an insight into many things, from telling a simple story to presenting a paper at a National Conference. Frank taught us how to structure talks properly and gave us confidence to deliver them. I came away with much more confidence about public speaking.

The content of the course was excellent, including the building of a US specification green, annual meadow grass control and even a 'walk on the wild side', covering conservation.

What struck me about the course was the camaraderie between greenkeepers, with nobody wanting to see a colleague fail.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Frank Newberry for a most informative experience, my fellow students for an interesting three days, and last but not least the people at HQ for making these courses available.

**PHILIP TAYLOR** Course Manager,  
Alwoodley Golf Club

• Similar letters of appreciation were received from other attendees, but space limitations prevent publication of them all.

I would like to thank Howard Evans, BIGGA's 'financial man', for his time and help in arranging my re-mortgage. Though we were hundreds of miles apart - he in South Wales and me in North Scotland - he talked to me over the telephone, assisting me and

keeping me fully informed throughout every stage.

The wide and varied services that BIGGA offer make it very professional indeed and a must for all greenkeepers.

Any member requiring assistance need only pick up the 'phone or drop a line to Howard Evans. I am sure he will help in the same way.

Once again, Howard, thank you very much for a splendid service.

**IAIN MACLEOD** Head Greenkeeper,  
Tain GC, Scotland

I write to thank everyone for the really good time I had at the BIGGA/ICI National Championships at Littlestone. This was my first BIGGA event and, as you know, I was lucky enough to play well and win some very worthwhile prizes.

My family and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, met some very fine people and now look forward to the next event, subject to my being in the 'Old Country'.

I would add a big thank you to all of the sponsors, especially ICI Professional Products, for making the event such an obvious success.

**PAUL CORFIELD** Golf de Rimaison,  
Brittany, France

I write to express my thanks to everyone involved in organising an excellent two day stay at Coventry for the Iseki finals.

Iseki staged this event at considerable expense, providing accommodation, meals and event team sweaters for all competitors, and must be thanked for their generous hospitality throughout our stay. I am confident that my sentiments will be echoed by everyone who took part.

Events like this provide an opportunity to converse with fellow members of the profession on a social basis whilst, I believe, being of educational value. Iseki are to be congratulated for providing such a platform for both sporting and educational purposes.

My thanks also to John Bayliss and his staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition, despite heavy rainfall before and during the competition.

**JAMES HUNTER** Course Manager,  
Goal Farm GC, Pirbright, Surrey  
• Similar letters of appreciation were received from competitors at both the National and Iseki events - for which many thanks.